

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BBAK,EINV,PFOR,PGOV,BE

SUBJECT: ARTICLE ON LOCKHEED AFFAIR

REF: BRUSSELS 1548

1. THE BELGIAN FRENCH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY,SPECIAL,COVER ARTICLE FOR THE APRIL 21 ISSUE,ENTITLED "LOCKHEED-BELGIUM: A SHADOWY AFFAIR OF MONEY," CONCERNS THE LOCKHEED PAYMENTS CASE AS IT MAY APPLY TO BELGIUM.THE ARTICLE CONCENTRATES ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LATE JEAN-PIERRE BONSANG HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOW:

2. AFTER DESCRIBING THE DEATH OF BONSANG,"LOCKHEED'S BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE",THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE SKETCHES THE BACKGROUND OF THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WHEN THE WRITER DESCRIBES THE SALE OF 12 LOCKHEED C-130S,HE SAYS THAT LOCKHEED HAS TO USE "FORCING" TO PERSUADE THE THEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE,P.W.SEGERS,TO ACCEPT THE AIRCRAFT. THE CONTRACT WHICH WAS SIGNED ON JUNE 17, 1971,WAS PROFITABLE FOR BONSANG WHO,IN ADDITION TO HIS RETAINER OF DOLS 1,000 PER MONTH,WAS ALLEGEDLY TO RECEIVE 1 PERCENT COMMISSION ON THE AIRCRAFT SALE AND 2 PERCENT ON SPARE PARTS SALES.

3. THE REMAINDER OF THE ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO THE CLAIMS OF
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MADAME BONSANG,WHO IS CONVINCED THAT HER LATE HUSBAND'S

COMMISSION HAD " DISAPPEARED". MADAME BONSANG IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT BOB HANSON,LOCKHEED'S PARIS REPRESENTATIVE,HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM HER SHORTLY AFTER THE BURIAL OF HER HUSBAND HIS OFFICE KEYS.

4. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO A US EMBASSY ROLE IS THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

"... AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER 1975,ANITA BONSANG RECEIVED A BRIEF TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. SHE WAS ASKED TO MEET AT NATIONAL DEFENSE WITH AN OFFICIAL COMING FROM WASHINGTON. ANITA BONSANG EXPECTED TO SEE A LOCKHEED DELEGATION. ACTUALLY,SHE FOUND HERSELF FACE TO FACE WITH AND INVESTIGATOR OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE,A CERTAIN JACK BLUM,AND HIS ASSISTANT WHO SPOKE EXCELLENT DUTCH. 'DID YOUR HUSBAND RECEIVE MONEY TO PAY BRIBES?' THE SAME BLUM ASKED BLUNTLY. THE WIDOW,WHO KNEW ONLY ABOUT A SUM OF DOLS 20,000 BLOCKED AT THE SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE SINCE HER HUSBAND'S DEATH,WAS ASTONISHED. IN ANY EVENT,ANITA BONSANG CLAIMS NEVER TO HAVE BEEN THE CONTRACTS CONCERNING THE SALE OF THE C-130 HERCULES."

5. THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE DEVELOPS UNNUENDO BY NOTING THAT THE CHURCH COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS SEEMED VERY WELL INFORMED -- BECAUSE OF LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS SEIZED IN THE U.S.-- AND THAT BONSANG WAS PAID VIA SWITZERLAND. MADAME BONSANG WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN IN SUBSEQUENT CONTACT WITH LOCKHEED OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH HER CLAIM AGAINST THE COMPANY. THE AUTHOR CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT ONE WOULD HAVE TO READ THE CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORT,AND HE COMMENTS THAT "IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHO WAS THE WORST IN ALL THESE STINKING OPERATIONS."

6. EMBASSY IS POUCHING TEXT OF ORIGINAL ARTICLE TO EUR/NE. FIRESTONE

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